



E-Gov...

Doing Business with the City On-Line

The City of Broken Arrow wants to make your life a little easier. We are now offering on-line access and payment of utility accounts, as well as on-line registration for Parks & Recreation Department's Learn to Swim program.

The E-Gov (Electronic Government) section of the City's web site is opened with one click on the top navigation bar. It will take you to a page explaining how the new services work. There are links from that page to the Click 2 Gov section on utilities and also to the WebTrac section on Parks & Rec. Check us out at www.brokenarrowok.gov.



Burning the Sales Tax Ordinance -- The NSU Half-Penny Sales Tax ordinance was burned at the BA campus, with Mayor Richard Carter and (extreme right) NSU President Dr. Larry Williams lighting it up. On hand were (from left) Vice-Mayor Craig Thurmond, and Council members Tom Chatterton and Melissa Mahan and NSU-BA's Dr. Ed Huckleby.

Rooster Days Festival Starts May 12

Broken Arrow's Rooster Days has become more than a community event...*much* more! Thousands of visitors come each year to Central Park to enjoy the wide range of entertainment and family fun.

Rooster Days 2005 should be more of the same. The annual Chamber of Commerce event will begin Thursday, May 12, and continue Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Two stages will be set up in Central Park, featuring everything from local talent, the Miss Chick contest, and Gospel Night (6 p.m. Friday) performers Lincoln Brewster and Vicki Beeching to Saturday's Country acts -- Springtree Bluegrass, Rio Dosa Band, Sean Adair and the Okie Island Band, Pake McEntire and Restless Heart. There will be local gospel music performers on stage Sunday afternoon. .

Rooster Days Schedule

Thursday, May 12 -- Activities in Central Park begin at 4:30 p.m. Food court and carnival will be open until 10 p.m. Local bands and school entertainment on the stage.

Friday, May 13 -- Opening of the Arts & Crafts and Trade Show inside the Community Center at 4:30 p.m.

"Gospel Night" starts at 6 p.m., featuring Lincoln Brewster and Vicki Beeching.

Saturday, May 14 -- Rooster Days Parade starts at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Immediately after parade, the official welcome from Mayor Richard Carter in Central Park.

Stage will feature variety of local entertainment, and activities include Kit Car Show, Rock Climbing Wall and rope making machine, pony rides with photos.

Miss Chick Contest starts at 6:00.

Beginning at 2 p.m. Country music acts will include Springtree Bluegrass, Rio Dosa Band, Sean Adair and the Okie Island Band, Pake McEntire and Restless Heart.

Sunday, May 15 -- Park opens at 1 p.m. Gospel music provided by local gospel performers. The festival concludes at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Rooster Days sponsors include: City of Broken Arrow; VALOR Telecom; Blue Bell Creameries; Speedway Chevrolet; Citizens Security Bank; Floral Haven Funeral Home, Cemetery and Floral Shop; and Public Service of Oklahoma and U.S. Cellular.

For a complete list of scheduled activities and entertainment, visit the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce Web site at www.brokenarrow.org. and click on the Rooster.

Buy Mega Ride Passes

Mega Ride Passes are on sale April 1 thru May 13 and are available at both Drysdales Western Wear locations and at the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce for only \$25 per pass. Exchange the ticket at the designated midway ticket booth to receive a "Mega Pass Armband," good for all four days.

Spring Forward or Fall Back?

That phrase is most often thought of in relation to setting our clocks at the beginning or ending of Daylight Savings Time. I like to think of it as it pertains to our city, and where we as citizens want it to go in the future.

For several decades, Broken Arrow has been "springing forward" in population growth, as thousands of families built or purchased homes here. They came for many reasons...housing prices, great schools, a safe environment, and friendly neighbors. Our city faced providing police and fire protection, government services, streets, water, and recreational facilities for the huge influx of families.

A challenge to providing public safety and city-run services has always been finding adequate revenue, which in Oklahoma is largely funded by sales tax. For most of our city's history, Broken Arrow hasn't had the retail base to fully provide that income.

Finally, the time is here when commercial/retail development is catching up, and promises to provide not only tax revenue to pay police officers and fire fighters, but allow our citizens to do their shopping, dining out, and recreation conveniently close to home. Bass Pro Shops will open this year, and many other retail stores, restaurants, and hotels are coming as well, joining the fine businesses already here.

The next few years should see even more wonderful things happening in Broken Arrow, as we "spring forward" into a promising future. It is the goal of your City Council to be business friendly, and to keep the quality growth that benefits all our citizens going. With your participation, advice, and ideas, we won't "fall back" into something less than the best we can be. And one more thing...anytime you can, "buy it in BA"... Year 'round!

Mayor Richard Carter



Council Members Travel to D.C.

Council members Wade McCaleb, Melissa Mahan and Tom Chatterton and City Manager Jim Twombly traveled to Washington D.C. in mid March to visit with the City's Congressional Delegation. At their first meeting in March the Council adopted the City's 2005 legislative issues. Among those issues are federal funding for the Police Department, designation of the Creek Turnpike as a federal interstate highway and re-establishment of a railroad crossing on Washington west of the Creek Turnpike. Another major issue is federal funding for the Community Development Block Grant program, providing Broken Arrow about \$450,000 per year.

The Broken Arrow group was able to meet with both Representative John Sullivan and Senator Tom Coburn and the staff of Senator Jim Inhofe. They were all very interested in the City's legislative issues and committed to helping Broken Arrow in any way they could. In fact, just three days after the meetings, Senator Inhofe's office was already communicating progress on the railroad crossing issue. In addition, Congress voted down the threatened cuts to Community Development Block Grant funding.



Glenda Walding (far left) was honored by the BA Police Department as its Citizen of the Year for 2005 at the recent PD Banquet. Making the presentation were (from her left) Mayor Richard Carter, Deputy Police Chief Rick Ross and Chief Todd Wuestewald.

Honored at BAPD Banquet Glenda Walding Named Police Citizen of the Year for 2005

Glenda Walding was ready to retire from teaching in BA Public Schools after 26 years, but she wasn't ready to retire from service to the community. She was rewarded March 12 when she was named "Citizen of the Year" by Chief Todd Wuestewald at the BA Police Banquet. The dinner was held at the Holiday Inn in Broken Arrow, and featured awards and honors and recognition for many of the department's employees. The Citizen of the Year award became a special addition to the program last year.

On Walding's first day as a volunteer, she was given the task of tallying the results of more than 2,500 citizen surveys. Before the year was over, she had volunteered 1,124 hours.

Wuestewald, in his introduction of her at the banquet, said, "To put this number in perspective, a full-time employee who works 40 hours per week for 50 weeks only puts in 2,000 hours. Her volunteer duties include everything from shredding paper to entering pawn tickets into the computer system. Not only does she volunteer at the Police Department, she also donates hours to assist at City Hall."

Wuestewald added that Walding's "hard work and dedication to the city of Broken Arrow and, in particular to the Police Department, is an inspiration....Her willingness to take on any task asked of her is remarkable."



Visiting with constituents from Broken Arrow on their trip to Washington, D.C., was Congressman John Sullivan (second from right). Joining him (from left) in his office were BA City Manager Jim Twombly and Council members Wade McCaleb, Melissa Mahan and Tom Chatterton.

Free Trash Bags Handed Out Soon

The City's annual distribution of 200 free plastic trash bags to each utility customer will begin April 18 at the Maintenance Center, 1700 W. Detroit. Customers bringing in their post cards from the City can drive through and claim their trash bags from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday (April 18-23 and April 25-30).

Free Spring Cleaning Day will be May 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., also at the Maintenance Center. Residents of Broken Arrow can bring in trucks and trailers loaded with yard trash, tree limbs, leaves, old furniture, appliances (as long as they do not contain freon), and more at no charge.

Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall	251-5311
Police Department	259-8400
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Public Works	259-8373
Municipal Court	451-8558
Utility Payment	259-8409
After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer	259-8400

Community Calendar

- April 7, 12, 19, 26** -- BA Arts & Humanities Council presents its Lunch Box Series, from 11:55 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. at the Library on W. Broadway (300 block). Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a variety of authors discussing their work.
- April 18** -- Walk-in Registration begins for 2005 Learn-to-Swim lessons provided by BA Parks & Recreation Dept. (On-line registration started April 4). For information go to the City's web site at www.brokenarrowok.gov or call 259-8436. Registration at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F.
- April 18-23 and 25-30** -- Distribution of free plastic trash bags to City utilities customers. Drive through, bring your post card from the City and pick up your 200 free trash bags from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Maintenance Center, 1700 W. Detroit.
- April 9 and 23** -- BA Youth Football Association Cheerleading registration, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BA Youth Sports Building, 1005 S. Main. Anyone who will be in grades 1 through 7 in the fall of 2005. Cost \$85 plus uniforms and shoes. For more information call 251-1015, ext. 220 or 240.
- April 23** -- Pitch, Hit and Run competition at Indian Springs Sports Complex, adult softball fields. 11 a.m. Registration form and information on City web site, www.brokenarrowok.gov.
- April 23** -- 2005 Youth Fest at Nienhuis Park. Sponsored by Youth City Council. Battle of Bands, Fear Factor, Fun Run and more!
- May 2** -- Start of the 2005 Rooster Egg Hunt, sponsored by Chamber of Commerce. One clue released each day until egg is found. Hundreds of dollars in prizes.
- May 7** -- Free Spring Clean-up Day, sponsored by City, with free dumping of tree limbs, yard trash, old appliances and furniture (no hazardous chemicals will be taken, i.e., batteries, oil paints, freon, etc.). 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Maintenance Center, 1700 W. Detroit.
- May 12-15** -- Rooster Days (see details in this issue)
- May 12** -- Broken Arrow High School graduation at ORU Mabee Center, followed by "Project Graduation."
- May 13** -- Union High School graduation.
- May 14** -- Annual Rooster Days Parade at 10 a.m. on Main Street and Miss Chick contest at Central Park.
- May 21** -- Hershey Track and Field qualifier at South Intermediate Track, 1 p.m., hosted by City of Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Dept. Winners advance to State Meet.
- May 23** -- BA Neighbors annual Benefit Golf Tournament, shotgun start at 1 p.m. at Indian Springs Country Club. For information call 251-7781.